

September 28, 2009



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Dear Friend,

Should you know what Members of Congress are voting on? I believe you should. Countless times last year we heard that transparency and accountability would return to Washington. Since then, Members, the public, and press were given a mere 12 hours to review the 1,073 page stimulus bill that cost \$787 billion. The cap and trade bill, which would cost \$846 billion and weighs in at 1,428 pages, was available for only 16.5 hours before the vote. This is unacceptable.

This why I have signed a discharge petition to bring [H. Res. 554](#) to the House floor for a vote. H. Res. 554 would amend House rules to require that **all legislation be readily accessible for public review on the Internet for at least 72 hours before a vote** on the House floor. Exceptions would be made for classified material, which would continue to be handled under existing laws and rules. This commonsense, [bipartisan](#) Resolution has been stuck in Committee since June.

However, 140 of my colleagues and I have signed a [discharge petition](#) to bring H. Res. 554 to the House floor for a vote. If 218 Members – a simple majority – sign this petition, we will have the chance to vote up or down on this measure to increase public access to legislation.

The public has the right to this information. I have heard from a number of my constituents who have read H.R. 3200, the 1,000+ page healthcare bill, and have raised substantive questions that deserve public debate. This should be made possible for all legislation, and H. Res. 554 would accomplish that very objective.

Since the dawn of our great nation, we have known that truth and transparency are crucial to our system of self-government. It has been centuries since Thomas Jefferson said that a well-informed public is “the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty.” Since returning to the House of Representatives, I have supported increasing the transparency and candor of the U.S.

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Congress, especially using technological tools and advances not available to our forefathers, such as the tele-townhall.

It is remarkable that at a time when 73 percent of the population reports using the Internet, Congress does not require itself to publish legislation online before voting on a bill. We've seen the consequences of this over and over again this past year, with the passage of a pork-riddled economic stimulus package and a cap and tax on all energy users, among other things. This should not happen again – and we now have legislation which would prohibit it from happening again.

Sincerely,



Daniel E. Lungren
Member of Congress

Congressmen Lungren periodically sends e-mail newsletters to constituents of the 3rd District to inform them of issues before the Congress and provide generally helpful information. If you would like to unsubscribe, you are free to do so [here](#). If you unsubscribe you will no longer receive Congressman Lungren's emails.

Should the Congress allow online access to legislation at least 72 hours before being voted on?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Unsure

Any other comments?

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